

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

- 5     1 (previously presented): An output circuit comprising:  
          an output port electrically connected to an output cable in a detachable  
  manner;  
          a signal circuit electrically connected to the output port for providing a signal  
  current to the output port; and  
10     a decision module comprising:  
          a comparator electrically connected to the output port for comparing  
  whether the signal voltage of the output port is larger than a  
  predetermined detecting threshold when the decision module  
  determines that the output port is not electrically connected to the  
15     output cable, and for determining whether the output port is  
          electrically re-connected to an output cable according to the  
  comparison result of the comparator; and  
          an amplifier electrically connected between the output port and the  
  comparator for amplifying the signal voltage of output port when  
20     the decision module determines that the output port is not  
          electrically connected to the output cable, wherein the comparator  
          compares whether the amplified signal voltage of output port is  
          larger than the detecting threshold.
- 25     2 (original): The output circuit of claim 1 wherein the decision module  
          comprises a comparator for comparing whether the signal voltage  
          of the output port is larger than a predetermined signal threshold  
          and the comparison result of the comparator determines whether  
          the output port is electrically connected to the output cable.

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3 (original): The output circuit of claim 2 wherein the decision module determines that the output port is not electrically connected to the output cable if the signal voltage of the output port is larger than the signal threshold.

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4-5 (cancelled)

6 (currently amended): A method for detecting whether an output port of a circuit is electrically connected to an output cable, the method comprising:

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(a) receiving a signal from the output port;

(b) determining whether the output port is electrically connected to the output cable according to a signal voltage of output port;

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(c) operating the circuit in a normal mode when it is determined that the output port is electrically connected to the output cable; [[and]]

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(d) operating the circuit in a power-saving mode and providing a low power detecting signal to the output port when it is determined that the output port is not electrically connected to the output cable; and

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(e) amplifying the signal voltage of the output port when the circuit is operating in the power-saving mode, and comparing whether the amplified signal voltage of the output port is larger than a predetermined detecting threshold, then determining whether the output port is electrically connected to the output cable according to the comparison result.

30 7 (previously presented): The method of claim 6 wherein the step (b)

comprises determining whether the output port is electrically connected to the output cable is according to whether the signal voltage of the output port is larger than a predetermined signal threshold.

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8 (original): The method of claim 7 wherein it is determined that the output port is not electrically connected to the output cable when the signal voltage of the output port is larger than the signal threshold.

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9-10 (cancelled)

11 (currently amended): The method of ~~claim 10~~ claim 6 wherein it is determined that the output port is not electrically re-connected to the output cable when the signal voltage of the output port is less than the detecting threshold.

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12 (cancelled)

20 13 (currently amended): The method of ~~claim 10~~ claim 6 further comprising providing an output signal to the output port when it is determined that the output port is electrically re-connected to an output cable, and comparing whether the signal voltage of the output port is larger than a predetermined detecting threshold, then determining whether the output port is electrically connected to the output cable according to the comparison result.

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14 (currently amended): An output circuit comprising:  
an output port for electrically connecting to an output cable in a detachable manner;

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a signal circuit for providing a signal current to the output port;  
and  
a decision module for electrically connecting to the output port and  
determining whether the output port is electrically connected to the output  
5 cable according to a signal voltage of the output port, the decision module  
comprising:  
a control circuit for operating the signal circuit in a normal mode when it is  
determined that the output port is electrically connected to the output  
cable, and for operating the signal circuit in a power-saving mode when it  
10 is determined that the output port is not electrically connected to the  
output cable;  
a comparator for comparing whether the signal voltage of the  
output port is larger than a predetermined detecting  
threshold when the signal circuit is operating in the  
15 power-saving mode, the decision module determining  
whether the output port is re-connected to an output  
cable according to the comparison result of the  
comparator; and  
an amplifier electrically connected between the output port  
20 and the comparator, wherein when the signal circuit is  
operating in the power-saving mode, the amplifier  
amplifies the signal voltage of the output port, and the  
comparator compares whether the amplified signal  
voltage of the output port is larger than the detecting  
25 threshold.

15 (previously presented): The output circuit of claim 14 wherein the  
decision module comprises a comparator for comparing whether  
the signal voltage of the output port is larger than a predetermined  
30 signal threshold and the decision module determines whether the

output port is electrically connected to the output cable according to the comparison result of the comparator.

16-17 (cancelled)

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18 (currently amended): The output circuit of ~~claim 16~~ claim 14 further comprising:

a storing circuit for providing a data signal and reading the data on an optical disc to generate the data signal.

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